

(d) The debt outstanding against external Loan on Government account for the last three years and estimated for 1997-98 are as follows:

	(Rs. Crore)
As on 31.3.95	142525
As on 31.3.96	148595
As on 31.3.97 (Est.)	151184
As on 31.3.98 (Est.)	153619

The estimated (BE) repayments during 1997-98 is Rs. 7464 crores.

*The principal repayment of internal and external debt is met out of fresh borrowings, thus rolling over the debt. It is not met out of current revenue receipts.

Lending Rate of RBI

3153. SHRI VIJAY PATEL:
SHRI RATI LAL KALIDAS VERMA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India has been announcing lending rate for institutions like Housing and Urban Development Corporation etc. from time to time; and

(b) if so, the details of lending rates announced for such institutions during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) and (b) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have reported that with effect from September 12, 1995, it was decided to include housing finance agencies in the category of intermediary agencies and banks were advised to charge a fixed rate of interest at 1.5 percentage points below their respective Prime Lending Rates for credit limits in the category of advances over Rs. 2 lakhs on Housing Finance granted to intermediary agencies for on lending to ultimate beneficiaries. As far as HUDCO is concerned, its lending rate is decided by its Board of Directors. However, the lending rate of EWS/LIG Housing Schemes and Action Plan Scheme is decided by an Empowered Committee under the Ministry of Urban Affairs and Employment.

NRI Accounts in Cooperative Banks

3154. SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether proposals for permitting the cooperative banks in Kerala to deal with the foreign exchange remittance of the Non-resident Indians is pending with the Union Government for clearance; and

(b) if so, the action taken by the Union Government thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and, to the extent

available, will be laid on the Table of the House.

External Aided Projects

3155. SHRI PARASRAM MEGHWAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government provides 25% amount of the Budgetary resource for the Externally Aided Projects as an advance in the beginning of the financial year to be adjusted against the expenditure of implementing the Externally Aided Projects without causing time and cost over-run;

(b) if so, whether the Government has released the amount of advance to the State Government of Rajasthan for such projects;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The Advance Additional Central Assistance (ACA) released to Government of Rajasthan since 1994-95 are:

	(Rs. Crores)
1994-95	32.77
1995-96	46.60

During 1996-97, no Advance ACA was released to the State on account of Budgetary constraints.

Transfers Guidelines to Nationalised Banks

3156. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL:
SHRIMATI BHAVNABEN DEVRAJ
BHAI CHIKHALIA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any directive have been issued by Government to Nationalised Banks for transfer of officers of various cadres after every three years etc. from a Branch/Office/Region to another Branch/Office/Region/Zone;

(b) whether any exemption have been given from such transfers to activities/office-bearers/leaders of officers association etc. recognised by the management etc.;

(c) if so, the reasons thereof; and

(d) if not the steps taken by Government for such violations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) to (d) The transfer of banks' staff is a management function of the bank. As such transfer/exemption from transfer is done by banks based on administrative exigencies of each bank.

However, Government has advised the banks that they should review the periodic rotation of the staff and not let them continue at the same branch/office for the unduly long time. It was also advised that officers and award staff should not normally continue at the same place for more than three and five years respectively and no exemptions have been given from such transfers to office bearers of any recognised officers association.

[*Translation*]

Videshi Punji Nivesh

3157. SHRI MUNAWWAR HASSAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the caption news-item published in 'Dainik Jagran' dated February 19, 1997 under "Videshi Punji Nivesh ke Dushpranam";

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that the foreign investment in the country has come as per the target since the announcement of economic liberalisation policy;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the reaction of the Government on the views expressed by the Asian Development Bank in this regard and the import of foreign investment on our economy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) to (e) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[*English*]

Closure of Textile Mills

3158. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether some textile mills in Mumbai under the National Textile Corporation are proposed to be closed down;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also proposed to merge some textile mills of Mumbai with other textile mills; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) No mill under NTC in Mumbai is proposed to be closed out-right.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) So far as NTC mills in Mumbai are concerned, the modernisation plan prepared by the Textile Research Associations envisages merger of 18 unviable mills into 9 viable mills. The details of the mills to be merged and the resultant units are indicated below:-

Mills to be merged	Resultant viable units
1. Indu Mills No. 3	1. Indu Mills No. 3
2. Indu Mills No. 4	2. Indu Mills No. 4
3. Indu Mills No. 2	
4. Mumbai Mills	3. Mumbai Mills
5. New Hind Mills	
6. Bharat Mills	4. Bharat Mills
7. Jupiter Mills	
8. Gold Mohur Mills	5. Gold Mohur Mills
9. Elphinstone Mills	
10. Kohinoor Mills No. 1	6. Kohinoor Mills No. 1
11. Kohinoor Mills No. 2	
12. Kohinoor Mills No. 3	
13. Tata Mills	7. Tata Mills
14. Jam Mills	
15. New City Mills	8. New City Mills
16. Madhusudan Mills	
17. Podar Mills	9. Podar Mills
18. Sitaram Mills	

[*Translation*]

Ninth Five Year Plan

3159. SHRI SUKHLAL KUSHWAHA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to fix the limit for providing loans to States during the Ninth Five Year Plan; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the criteria adopted in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) and (b) There is no proposal at present with Government of India to fix limit for providing loans to States during the Ninth Five Year Plan.

[*English*]

Cotton Export Quota

3160. SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Maharashtra has requested to release further export quota to two lakh bales of cotton in favour of Maharashtra State Cooperative Cotton Growers' Marketing Federation; and

(b) if so, the action taken by the Government in this regard?